

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: AHC/2025

Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre

Chairperson: Councillor C Galbraith

**In attendance
in Chamber:**

Councillor D Finn
Councillor J Jackson
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor K Murphy

Councillor R Howell
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor A Mathers

**Committee Members in
attendance (via Teams):**

Councillor L Devlin
Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor D Murphy

Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor H Young

Officials in Chamber:

Mr A Patterson, Director, Active and Healthy Communities
Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living
Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer

AHC/019/2025: APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

There were no apologies received.

The Chairperson congratulated all those who organised the Sports Awards and expressed his gratitude at being invited to attend. He congratulated all those who had been nominated and the winners on the night stating there was a huge amount of sporting talent within the District.

He congratulated all those who organised and participated in the St Patrick's Day celebrations across the District, stating that the feedback on the Downpatrick parade was good.

AHC/020/2025: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AHC/021/2025: ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY

Read: Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 February 2025. **(Copy circulated)**.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Howell, to note the Action Sheet of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 17 February 2025.**

AHC/022/2025: NOTICE OF MOTION: RUNNING TRACK IN EAST DOWN

Read: Report dated 18 March 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living regarding a Notice of Motion in relation to a Running Track in East Down. **(Copy circulated)**.

Mr Haughey provided an update on the status of a running track and recommended that officers provide an update to the AHC Committee once further progress had been made on options for available land and suitable sites for the location of a running track. This would be as part of a multi-sports hub in partnership with a school or other statutory body, in line with the approved recommendations of the Council's Sports Facilities Review.

Councillor Devlin welcomed the update stating there was so much sporting talent across the District, the options were limitless if the correct facilities were in place in East Down, particularly for females. She stated she understood the limitations that existed in terms of suitable land, however, welcomed that officers were working hard in the background to progress the installation of a running track. She asked whether the update as outlined in the recommendation could be timebound in some way.

Mr Haughey advised that officials were working on this and looking at various site options, particularly in the Downpatrick DEA area and should be able to bring a report back to the Committee in May.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, that officers provide an update to AHC Committee as further progress is made on options for available land and suitable sites for the location of a running track as part of a multi-sports hub to be developed in partnership with a school or another statutory body, in line with the approved recommendations of the Councils Sports Facilities Review.**

AHC/023/2025: LEISURE CENTRE ARRANGEMENTS

Read: Report dated 18 March 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living regarding a Notice of Motion in relation to proposed amendments to the leisure centre closure arrangements for the 2025 period.

Mr Haughey advised the report was seeking approval to change the public opening/closing time in line with the reopening of the leisure centre in Newry.

Councillor Howell asked whether the Trade Unions had been consulted on the proposed changes.

Mr Haughey advised the staffing times had not changed, the proposals would assist staff to complete cleaning at the end of their shifts. Councillor Howell, while appreciating this, stated it was important that the Trade Unions be spoken to also.

Councillor Finn raised a query on private swim lessons and whether there was a timeframe as to when they would resume in Newry Leisure Centre.

Mr Patterson advised engagement was ongoing with the providers of the private swim lessons and an update would be brought back in terms of arrangements.

Councillor Devlin stated communication with the public was important when amending the hours of operation.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Councillor Finn, to approve the amended leisure centre closure arrangements for 2025 as per the officer's report.**

AHC/024/2025: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT

Read: Report dated 18 March 2025 from Mrs A Robb, Assistant Director, Community Development regarding an update on District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Jackson, to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached for:**

- **Crotlieve DEA Forum Private Meeting held on 25 February 2025.**
- **Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on 18 February 2025.**
- **Slieve Croob DEA Private Forum Meeting held on 25 February 2025.**
- **Downpatrick DEA Private Forum Meeting 11 February 2025.**

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 5 to 7, which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that**

information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

AHC/025/2025: USAGE AGREEMENT FOR AHC FACILITY

Read: Report dated 18 March 2025 from Mr C Haughey, Assistant Director, Healthy Living, regarding the Usage Agreement for AHC Facility. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mathers, seconded by Councillor Howell, to approve the sporting club's sole use of the Council facility for the duration of their development works, subject to agreed terms and periodic review.

AHC/026/2025: FUNDED PROGRAMME DELIVERY

Read: Report dated 18 March 2025 from Mrs A Robb, regarding Funded Programme Delivery. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Howell, seconded by Councillor Finn, to proceed with the delivery of the funded programme as detailed within the Officer's Report to July 2025, pending receipt of a Letter of Offer from the programme funder.

It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Finn that Council send a letter urging the Department to consider sending a Letter of Offer as soon as possible.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.27pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 April 2025.

Signed: Councillor Galbraith
Chairperson

Signed: Andrew Patterson
Director Active and Healthy Communities